

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT: EA/ROC WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. NEW POLITICAL MOOD ON TAIWAN (CONFIDENTIAL)

THERE CONTINUE TO BE REVERBERATIONS FROM LAST NOVEMBER'S LOCAL ELECTIONS AS NON-KMT POLITICIANS AND EVEN SOME ESTABLISHMENT MEDIA TEST THE LIMITS OF FREE SPEECH AND PERMISSIBLE COMMENT. "NEW GENERATION", A JOURNAL FOUNDED LAST SUMMER, HAS EMERGED AS THE MOST VOCAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE "NEW BREED" POLITICIANS WHO HOPE TO BUILD AN OPPOSITION POLITICAL MOVEMENT, THOUGH NOT YET A POLITICAL PARTY. BUT EVEN SO NORMALLY STAIID A PAPER AS THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "ECONOMIC NEWS" HAS ECHOED THE CALL FOR FREE SPEECH AND FOR DISCUSSION OF SENSITIVE POLITICAL SUBJECTS. EVEN THE CONCEPT OF AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN HAS BEEN

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DISCUSSED OPENLY IN THE PRESS, THOUGH FROM A CAREFULLY COUCHED NEGATIVE VIEWPOINT. AND SOME INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE CALLED FOR THE END OF "THE PERIOD OF KUOMINTANG POLITICAL TUTELAGE" AND A FULLY DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM.

THE REACTION OF CHIANG CHING-KUO AND THE KMT, CAUTIOUS IN

THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTIONS AND THE CHUNG LI

RIOT, SEEMS PERCEPTIBLY HARDENING NOW. EARLIER THIS MONTH THE GOVERNMENT CONFISCATED A BOOK, WRITTEN BY CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF ONE OF THE MORE PROMINENT INDEPENDENT WINNERS OF LAST NOVEMBER, WHICH PURPORTED TO GIVE THE INSIDE STORY OF KMT ELECTORAL TRICKERY; AND JUST THIS PAST WEEK THE TAIWAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (WHICH LAST YEAR PUBLICLY CALLED FOR AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN) WAS WARNED TO AVOID POLITICAL ACTIVITIES DURING ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION.

THE CHUNG LI RIOT AMPLY INDICATED THAT TENSIONS EXIST BENEATH THE SURFACE IMAGE OF STABILITY. AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, JUST BACK FROM TAIWAN, HAS TOLD US OF OBSERVING AT TAIWANESE FOLK FESTIVALS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS SYMBOLIC ACTS OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE A YEAR OR SO AGO.

WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT CCK WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THINGS THROUGH THE "TRADITIONAL" METHOD OF CO-OPTING SOME OF THE OPPOSITION AND INTIMIDATING THE REST. BUT A NEW SITUATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CREATED AND THE KMT WILL HAVE TO EXHIBIT MORE SUBTLETY THAN IN THE PAST IF A

POPULAR BACKLASH IS TO BE AVOIDED. WE EXPECT THE SITUATION TO HEAT UP STILL FURTHER AS WE MOVE TOWARD THE
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SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN (I.E. FOR NEW TAIWANESE MEMBERS) SCHEDULED FOR NEXT DECEMBER.

2. ON THE NUCLEAR FRONT (SECRET EXDIS EA ONLY)

AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED THE EMBASSY TO POINTEDLY NOTE TO THE ROC AT THE DCM-TO-VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL THAT THE 1978 NON-PROLIFERATION ACT REQUIRES THE U.S. TO TERMINATE NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO ANY COUNTRY THAT VIOLATES IAEA SAFEGUARDS OR ITS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.

WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF CLEARING ANOTHER INSTRUCTION WHICH WILL ADDRESS THE FEW REMAINING UNRESOLVED ISSUES RELATED TO START-UP OF THE TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR (TRR) AND WILL SET IN MOTION A VISIT TO TAIWAN IN MAY BY AN INTERAGENCY NUCLEAR TEAM. WE WANT THE TEAM TO CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE RESEARCH WORK AT INER AND TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONVERSION OF THE TRR TO A LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL CYCLE.
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